INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ, P.C.
7150 E. CAMELBACK, SUITE 325
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251
Telephone: (480) 385-5060
Facsimile: (480) 385-5061

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Examiner Azizal Chadhoury	FROM: Brett A. Carlson (Reg. No. 39,928)
COMPANY: USPTO	DATE: APRIL 23, 2007
FAX NUMBER: *(571)-273-8300*	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 31
PHONE NUMBER:	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER: B. Carlson
RE: Revised Notice of Appeal/Response to Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief	REFERENCE NUMBER: 09/606,786

NOTES/COMMENTS:

INTENDED FOR ENTRY

ART UNIT 2145

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
APR 2 3 2007

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Murphy et al.	Group Art Unit: 2145
Serial No.:	09/606,786	Examiner: Choudhury, Azizul Q.
Filed:	June 28, 2000	Confirmation No.: 6327
For:	*METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING A COMPUTER SYSTEM*	

Attorney Docket No.: WNF/B. Carlson

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

MAILSTOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

We hereby respond to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed on March 23, 2007 in reference to our Appeal Brief originally filed on November 16, 2006. In this Response, we provide a replacement Brief as permitted under MPEP § 1205.3(B).

This amended brief is substantively identical to the originally-filed brief, but with minor modifications in formatting as suggested by the Notification. We respectfully note that the Notification cites only to 37 CFR 41.37, yet our review of that Rule has not identified any requirement that each section begin on a separate page, or that the brief contain a table of contents. Nevertheless, we have amended our brief to comply with the Examiner's requests, and we now request reconsideration of the brief.

This Response is believed to be filed in a timely manner without any need for extensions of time. If for some reason this is not the case, however, Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time and grants the Commissioner authorization to debit Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fees as may be required to consider this Response and/or to prevent abandonment of this application.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of assignee,

/Brett A. Carlson/

Brett A. Carlson

Registration No. 39,928
(480) 385-5060

Dated April 23, 2007

Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz, P.C.
Customer No. 000128

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Murphy et al.	Group Art Unit: 2145
Serial No.:	09/606,786	Examiner: Choudhury, Azizul Q.
Filed:	June 28, 2000	Confirmation No.: 6327
For:	*METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING A COMPUTER SYSTEM*	
Attorney Docket No.:	WNF/B. Carlson	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.

on 3/23/2007. Signature: *Brett A. Carlson*

APPEAL BRIEF SUBMITTED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 41.37

MAILSTOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

The Examiner has repeatedly refused to allow our patent application, stating that our invention is anticipated by art that clearly fails to meet each and every limitation of our claims. With all due respect to the Examiner, the cited art falls far short of disclosing at least several aspects of our claimed inventions. We appealed the Examiner's final decision to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to resolve a single factual question:

> ***Does the Chang Reference cited in the Office Actions disclose each and every one of the limitations found in our claim 1?***

As evidenced by the size of the file wrapper in this matter and the length of time that this Application has remained pending, we have attempted to resolve this question with the Examiner on several occasions, and we remain firmly resolved that the Chang reference continually cited by the Examiner falls well short of disclosing each and every element of our claimed inventions.

Each of the items required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1) IS set forth below as follows:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

i.	**Real Party in Interest**	3
ii.	**Related Appeals and Interferences**	4
iii.	**Status of Claims**	5
iv.	**Status of Amendments**	6
v.	**Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**	7
vi.	**Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed on Appeal**	9
vii.	**Argument**	10
viii.	**Claims Appendix**	14
ix.	**Evidence Appendix**	27
x.	**Related Proceedings Appendix**	28

This Brief is believed to be filed in a timely manner without any need for extensions of time other than those addressed elsewhere in this submission. If for some reason this is not the case, however, Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time (e.g. any extension from the date that the Notice of Appeal and/or the Final Office Action were mailed) and grants the Commissioner authorization to debit Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fees as may be required to consider this Brief and/or to prevent abandonment of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated 4/23/2007

Brett A. Carlson
Registration No. 39,928
(480) 385-5060

Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz, P.C.
Customer No. 29,906

1. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest for this invention is WNF Consulting Inc., an Arizona corporation.

2. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related Appeals or Interferences.

3. Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-25, 42-90, 93-101, 105, and 107-116 are pending in the present Application, with claims 1, 42, 90, 105, 111 and 116 being independent claims. Claims 2, 26-41, 91-92, 102-104 and 106 were cancelled in Applicant's prior Responses, and are no longer pending. **Although we believe each of the claims to be patentable for their own reasons, this Appeal relates only to claim 1. That is, only claim 1 is under appeal.** Because the same reference is cited against all of the claims, however, the issues raised with regard to claim 1 are relevant to the patentability of the remaining claims.

4. Status of Amendments

No amendments were filed subsequent to the Final Office Action.

5. Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

As stated in our informal request for review, our inventions generally relate to various systems and techniques for remotely maintaining a number of personal computers interconnected by a network. Broadly speaking, a server computer system provides an "attribute determination" program to each client computer being maintained to determine the particular attributes (e.g. computer brand, model, operating system, hardware capabilities, etc.) of that client computer. The attribute determination program reports these attributes back to the server, which then selects one of a set of management instructions based upon the particular attributes of the client computer and provides these instructions to the client computer for subsequent execution. Each of these steps is performed without booting the local operating system on the client computer, thereby allowing the server to provide powerful diagnostic and repair features. Notably, this system is capable of determining attributes of a previously-unknown computer client and of selecting management instructions based upon those particular attributes. This functionality is highly useful and powerful, yet not even remotely suggested in the prior art.

With particular reference to independent claim 1 (and with reference to the originally-filed application, including reference numerals), one exemplary method of remotely maintaining a client computer [202] from a server computer [206] is described. The client computer [e.g. p. 1, line 18 through p. 2, line 5] comprises a plurality of attributes [e.g. p. 34, lines 17-24], a network interface card (NIC) [e.g. 102] and a local operating system [106]. The method comprises the step of providing a preboot attribute determination application [e.g. boot image 500] from the server computer to the client computer via the network interface card prior to said client computer loading said local operating system [FIG. 4B, step 334]. Said plurality of attributes of said client computer are determined [FIG. 4B, step 330; see also p. 7, lines 10-15] with the preboot attribute determination application executing on said client computer prior to said client computer loading said local operating system. Said plurality of attributes from said client computer are then received at the server computer [FIG. 4B, step 318], which then automatically selects [FIG. 4B, step 324] one of a plurality of management instruction sets [e.g. scripts 302 in FIG. 3] stored on said server computer for said client computer. Said one of said plurality of management instruction sets is selected by said server computer based upon said plurality of attributes of said client computer determined by said preboot attribute determination program [see, e.g., p. 7, lines 14-16]. Said one of said plurality of management instructions is

provided from said server computer to said client computer [FIG. 4B, step 326] to thereby allow said client computer to execute said one of said plurality of management instruction sets at said client computer prior to loading said local operating system [FIG. 4B, step 322; see also p. 24, line 15-p. 25, line 7]. Additional information about this exemplary process can be found in the original specification at, for example, p. 19, line 12 through p. 26, line 10.

We strongly believe that at least the "determining" and "automatically selecting" steps are not disclosed in the prior art of record. Again, although our application contains numerous claims that are each patentable for their own reasons, for purposes of this Appeal we will focus only on the particular language of claim 1.

6. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

We request review of a single point relating to the Section 102(b) rejection of claim 1 contained in the Final Office Action dated July 5, 2005, citing US Patent No. 5,680,547 ("Chang"):

> **Does the Chang Reference disclose our claimed limitations of** ***(1) determining the attributes of a client computer with an application provided by a server computer...;*** **and** ***(2) automatically selecting one of a plurality of instruction sets stored on the server computer for said client computer based upon the determined attributes of the client computer?***

Upon review of the file wrapper and evidence presented, we believe that the Board will answer this question in the negative. Simply stated, the "attribute determining" and "automatic selection" features of our claim are simply not found within the metes and bounds of the Chang reference. As a result, the Section 102 rejection of the claim cannot be maintained.

7. Argument

The single issue presented to the board is relatively simple and straightforward: does the reference cited by the Examiner disclose each and every element of our claim 1, as required to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)? It is our strong contention that does not.

As we have noted above, our invention in claim 1 relates to a method of remotely maintaining a client computer system from a server computer. The server provides an attribute determination program that determines certain characteristics of the client, the program reports these characteristics back to the server, and then the server selects an appropriate administration script for the client based upon the determined characteristics of that computer. In particular, there are at least two elements of claim 1 that are clearly not found within the scope of the cited reference. Claim 1 is reproduced below for convenience:

> 1. A method of remotely maintaining a client computer from a server computer, wherein the client computer comprises a plurality of attributes, a network interface card (NIC) and a local operating system, the method comprising the steps of:
>
> providing a preboot attribute determination application from the server computer to the client computer via the network interface card prior to said client computer loading said local operating system;
>
> ***determining said plurality of attributes of said client computer with the preboot attribute determination application executing on said client computer prior to said client computer loading said local operating system;***
>
> receiving said plurality of attributes from said client computer at the server computer;
>
> ***automatically selecting one of a plurality of management instruction sets stored on said server computer for said client computer, wherein said one of said plurality of management instruction sets is selected by said server computer based upon said plurality of attributes of said client computer determined by said preboot attribute determination program; and***
>
> providing said one of said plurality of management instructions from said server computer to said client computer to thereby allow said client computer to execute said one of said plurality of management instruction sets at said client computer prior to loading said local operating system.

We strongly believe that at least the highlighted "determining" and "automatically selecting" steps of claim 1 (as well as various other claims) are not disclosed in the prior art of record. Although we have explained our views on several opportunities (e.g. in the Response to

Office Action dated April 7, 2005), the Office continues to reject our claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), citing US Patent No. 5,680,547 ("Chang"). While we acknowledge that the Chang reference does describe a pre-boot file transfer environment (such as the PXE specification that is described at length in our specification[1]), Chang's disclosure is limited to a system for transferring files. It is not intended as a complete administration system, nor is such functionality disclosed within the bounds of the reference. At the very least, the Chang reference does not disclose our claimed details of determining the attributes of the client computer and automatically selecting a set of instructions based upon the determined attributes. To the contrary, Chang is silent as to these features, and therefore falls short of providing the disclosure required to support the Section 102(b) rejection set forth in the Final Office Action.

As we have noted in the record,[2] the Chang reference cited against Applicant's claims describes a basic implementation of the pre-boot execution environment (PXE) that was originally developed to allow network interface cards (NICs) to obtain a boot program for a computer over a network. In contrast to the presently-claimed invention, however, Chang only contemplates administration of "predetermined" computer resources that have been previously known to the server.[3] In the Chang system, an administrator manually enters each client computer into an "access control list database" (ACL-DB, shown as element 11a in Chang's FIG. 1), and all access to server resources is contingent upon the server authenticating the client computer with the ACL-DB.[4] When the computer is later powered up, the computer transmits its NIC address to the server for verification.[5] Chang's FIG. 3B, for example, expressly shows that that the network connection between the client and server is "cut" if the client's NIC address is not recognized in an access control list database.[6] Chang also expressly states that its preboot process is "controlled by a system administrator,"[7] further emphasizing that only computer systems that are known to a human operator are considered by the Chang system. Stated another way, Chang simply provides a static set of instructions to a client computer based upon the NIC address entered in the server database; the reference contains no mention whatsoever of

[1] *See*, for example, page 8, line 24 through page 9, line 3 of our Specification.
[2] Please see our Remarks at page 15-16 of the Response filed April 7, 2005 for a detailed description of the Chang reference and various differences between that reference and the present claims.
[3] *See, e.g.*, Chang at col. 5, lines 30-32, and the preambles of each independent claim.
[4] *See, e.g.*, Chang at col. 4, lines 52-60.
[5] Chang at col. 6, lines 56-58.
[6] *See also* Chang at col. 6, lines 56-63.
[7] *See, e.g*, Chang at Abstract, last sentence and col. 2, lines 50-52.

automatically selecting instructions based upon the particular attributes of the client machine, nor does it provide a mechanism for determining the attributes of the client machine.

Turning now to the detailed rejection of our claim 1 found in the Final Office Action, the Examiner initially cites col. 2, lines 44-54 of Chang[8] as disclosing our "attribute determination program" limitation, claiming that "the claimed application must be present since a check is done of the client to determine if it is booted or not". This statement fails to take into account that our claim recites that the application is *provided by the server to the client*. That is, even if Chang does determine whether the client is booted or not, this simple check does not anticipate "*determining the attributes of the client with a client attribute determination application provided from the server to the client*", as recited in our claim 1 and elsewhere.

The Office Action makes numerous claims that our limitations are "inherent" in the Chang reference, without providing any adequate basis for such statements. As an example, the Final Office Action[9] asserts that "it is inherent that the application contains the claimed management instructions, as well as selects the appropriate management instructions for each client machine", ignoring our express recitation that the instructions are selected based upon the determined attributes of the client computer, a feature clearly not present in the Chang reference. Indeed, the Final Office Action is entirely silent as to this feature of our claims. As a result, the actual rejection contained within the Final Office Action simply makes broad reference to column 2, lines 44-54 of the Chang reference, claiming that our claim elements "are inherent" or "must be present" from this disclosure, without providing specific citation to the actual features of the reference that disclose each and every limitation of our claims. In fact, Chang does not disclose the various features of our claimed inventions, as described above.

The Final Office Action further summarizes the rejections at pages 67-68, stating that Chang's column 2 discloses the various features found within our 100+ claims. In this section, the Examiner states that Chang discloses pre-boot file transfer, which is asserted to be "equivalent" to our "claimed traits of receiving attributes, selecting management instruction sets and providing management instruction sets". Once again, however, this statement does not include the full breadth of our claim language. Even to the extent that Chang is able to disclose pre-boot file transfer between a client computer and a server computer, the reference in no way

[8] The only portions of Chang cited in the entire rejection of claim 1 are col. 2 lines 7-19 and 44-54.
[9] At page 4, line 7.

discloses determining client computer attributes with an application provided by the server, nor does the reference disclose automatically selecting a list of instructions based upon the determined attributes. Because the reference does not disclose the actual limitations recited in our claim, the rejection under Section 102(b) cannot be maintained.

We therefore request that the Board review the Final Office Action and determine whether US Patent No. 5,680,547 discloses our claimed limitations of (1) *determining the attributes of a client computer with an application provided by a server computer before the client computer has booted its local operating system*; and (2) *automatically selecting one of a plurality of instruction sets stored on the server computer for said client computer based upon the attributes of said client computer determined by said preboot application provided by the server*. For the reasons set forth above, we are confident that neither of these elements are disclosed by the Chang reference in any manner whatsoever.

8. Claims Appendix

1. A method of remotely maintaining a client computer from a server computer, wherein the client computer comprises a plurality of attributes, a network interface card (NIC) and a local operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a preboot attribute determination application from the server computer to the client computer via the network interface card prior to said client computer loading said local operating system;

determining said plurality of attributes of said client computer with the preboot attribute determination application executing on said client computer prior to said client computer loading said local operating system;

receiving said plurality of attributes from said client computer at the server computer;

automatically selecting one of a plurality of management instruction sets stored on said server computer for said client computer, wherein said one of said plurality of management instruction sets is selected by said server computer based upon said plurality of attributes of said client computer determined by said preboot attribute determination program; and

providing said one of said plurality of management instructions from said server computer to said client computer to thereby allow said client computer to execute said one of said plurality of management instruction sets at said client computer prior to loading said local operating system.

2 (cancelled).

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of attributes comprise hardware attributes.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of attributes comprise firmware attributes.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of attributes comprise desktop management interface (DMI) attributes.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of attributes comprise PCI attributes.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of attributes comprise SMBIOS attributes.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of attributes comprise at least one of the group consisting of system manufacturer, model, motherboard type, bus information, and adapter information.

9. The method of claim 9 wherein said adapter information comprises information about adapter orientation within a system bus of said client computer.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said client computer comprises a file system and wherein the method further comprises the step of verifying said file system of said client computer.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said step of verifying said file system comprises checking the files in said file system against an index file.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said index file is retained on said server computer and wherein said step of verifying said file system is executed on said server computer.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said index file is retained on said client computer and wherein said step of verifying said file system is executed on said client computer.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said index file is compressed.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein files missing from said file system are retrieved from said server computer.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein said index file corresponds to said attributes of said client computer.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein said files are accessed using the PXE protocol.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein said contacting step is performed in accordance with the PXE protocol.

19. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of mounting a remote drive from said server computer to said client computer.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of executing said management instructions comprises accessing data files on said remote drive.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein said client computer comprises a registry file and wherein the method further comprises the step of verifying said registry file of said client computer.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said step of verifying said registry file comprises checking entries in said registry file against a registry index file.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said registry index file is retained on said server computer and wherein said step of verifying said registry file is executed on said server computer.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein said registry index file is retained on said client computer and wherein said step of verifying said registry file is executed on said client computer.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein said registry index file corresponds to at least a portion of said plurality of attributes of said client computer.

26 – 41 (cancelled).

42. A method of remotely managing a client computer having a local operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an attribute determination program from a server in response to a request from said client computer;

executing the attribute determination program on the client computer to identify a plurality of attributes of said client computer prior to said client computer loading the local operating system and to provide said attributes to said server;

receiving said attributes from said attribute determination program at said server;

automatically selecting one of a plurality of management instructions for said client computer at said server as a function of said attributes obtained from said attribute determination program; and

providing said one of said plurality of management instructions from said server to said client computer prior to booting said local operating system of client computer.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein said attributes comprise hardware attributes.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein said attributes comprise firmware attributes.

45. The method of claim 42 further comprising the step of executing said one of said plurality of management instructions at said client computer.

46. The method of claim 45 wherein said one of said plurality of management instructions comprises at least one of a plurality of scripts.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein at least one of said plurality of scripts is a REXX script.

48. The method of claim 46 wherein at least one of said plurality of scripts is a PERL script.

49. The method of claim 46 wherein at least one of said plurality of scripts is a batch script.

50. The method of claim 46 wherein each of said plurality of scripts is associated with a workstation object at said server, wherein said workstation object is associated with said client computer.

51. The method of claim 46 wherein each script comprises instructions for executing one or more tasks in response to the occurrence of at least one event.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein at least one of said templates is associated with said script at said server through an event object.

53. The method of claim 51 wherein at least one of said templates is associated with said script at said server via a workstation group object.

54. The method of claim 51 wherein at least one of said templates is associated with said script at said server via said attributes of said client computer.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein said attributes comprise hardware attributes.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein said attributes comprise at least one of the group consisting of manufacturer, model, motherboard type, bus information and adapter information.

57. The method of claim 55 wherein said attributes comprise PCI attributes.

58. The method of claim 55 wherein said attributes are DMI attributes.

59. The method of claim 55 wherein said attributes are SMBIOS attributes.

60. The method of claim 54 wherein said providing step and said receiving step are in accordance with the PXE protocol.

61. The method of claim 56 wherein said providing step and said receiving step are in accordance with the PXE protocol.

62. The method of claim 42 wherein said client computer comprises a file system and wherein said step of managing said client computer comprises verifying said file system of said client computer.

63. The method of claim 62 wherein said step of verifying said file system comprises checking the files in said file system against an index file.

64. The method of claim 63 wherein said index file is retained on said server computer and wherein said step of verifying said file system is executed on said server computer.

65. The method of claim 63 wherein said index file is retained on said client computer and wherein said step of verifying said file system is executed on said client computer.

66. The method of claim 63 wherein said index file is compressed.

67. The method of claim 63 wherein files missing from said file system are retrieved from said server computer.

68. The method of claim 63 wherein said index file corresponds to said attributes of said client computer.

69. The method of claim 67 wherein said files are retrieved using the PXE TFTP protocol.

70. The method of claim 42 wherein said client computer comprises a registry file and wherein said step of managing said client computer comprises verifying said registry file of said client computer.

71. The method of claim 70 wherein said step of verifying said registry file comprises checking entries in said registry file against a registry index file.

72. The method of claim 71 wherein said registry index file is retained on said server computer and wherein said step of verifying said registry file is executed on said server computer.

73. The method of claim 71 wherein said registry index file is retained on said client computer and wherein said step of verifying said registry file is executed on said client computer.

74. The method of claim 71 wherein said registry index file corresponds to said attributes of said client computer.

75. The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of mounting a remote volume of said server computer on said client computer.

76. The method of claim 75 wherein said step of executing said management instructions comprises accessing files stored on said remote volume.

77. The method of claim 76 wherein said client computer comprises a file system and wherein said step of managing said client computer comprises verifying said file system of said client computer.

78. The method of claim 77 wherein files missing from said file system are retrieved from said remote volume.

79. The method of claim 76 wherein said step of verifying said file system comprises checking the files in said file system against an index file.

80. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 42.

81. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 44.

82. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 49.

83. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 56.

84. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 57.

85. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 59.

86. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 68.

87. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 70.

88. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 74.

89. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for executing the method of claim 76.

90. A system for managing a client computer over a network, the client computer having a plurality of client computer attributes and a local operating system, the system comprising:

a database configured to store a plurality of template records, each of said plurality of template records comprising a set of template attributes and a corresponding configuration script; and

a server application configured to receive a request from said client computer via said network, to provide a preboot attribute determination program to the client computer in response to the request, to receive said client computer attributes from the preboot attribute determination program executing on the client computer, to associate said client computer with at least one of said template records by comparing said client computer attributes to said

template attributes, and to provide the configuration script corresponding to the associated at least one of said template records to said client computer for execution on said client computer prior to booting a local operating system.

91-92 (cancelled).

93. The system of claim 90 further comprising event objects associated with at least one of said template records, wherein said event objects are associated with said configuration scripts such that said configuration scripts are provided to said client computers upon the occurrence of an event.

94. The system of claim 93 wherein said event comprises the booting of one of said client computers.

95. The system of claim 93 wherein said database is a directory services application.

96. The system of claim 95 wherein said directory services application is a Netware Directory Services™ directory.

97. The system of claim 95 wherein said directory services application is a Microsoft Active Directory™ directory.

98. The system of claim 90 wherein said records of information comprise attributes of said client computers.

99. The system of claim 98 wherein said attributes comprise DMI attributes.

100. The system of claim 98 wherein said attributes comprise PCI attributes.

101. The system of claim 98 wherein said attributes comprise SMBIOS attributes.

102-104 (cancelled).

105. A system for administrating a plurality of client computers over a network, the system comprising:

means for receiving a boot message from one of said plurality of client computers;

means for determining attributes of said one of said plurality of client computers prior to booting a local operating system of said one of said plurality of client computers;

means for associating said attributes with an entry in a database to determine administration steps to be performed on said one of said plurality of client computers; and

means for providing said administrative steps to said one of said plurality of client computers for execution prior to booting the local operating system of said one of said plurality of client computers.

106 (cancelled).

107. The system of claim 105 wherein said determining means comprises means for querying hardware and software attributes of one of said plurality of client computers.

108. The system of claim 107 wherein said querying means comprises means for querying DMI parameters of one of said plurality of client computers.

109. The system of claim 107 wherein said querying means comprises means for querying PCI parameters of one of said plurality of client computers.

110. The system of claim 107 wherein said querying means comprises means for querying SMBIOS parameters of one of said plurality of client computers.

111. A method of maintaining files on a client computer having a local operating system and a network interface card, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a boot request at a server computer from said client computer;

providing a response to said boot request from said server to said client via said network interface card, wherein said response comprises a file checking program configured to be executed on said client computer prior to booting said local operating system;

receiving an index of files present on said client computer from said file checking program without booting said local operating system;

providing updated files from said server to said client computer based upon said index; and

instructing said client computer to boot said local operating system after said updated files are received from said server.

112. The method of claim 111 comprising the step of automatically mounting a volume of said server to said client computer.

113. The method of claim 112 wherein said volume is mounted via a network stack located in a ROM on said client computer.

114. The method of claim 113 wherein said ROM is a ROM on a network interface card of said client computer.

115. The method of claim 114 wherein said ROM is a PXE-enabled ROM.

116. A method of maintaining a registry on a client computer having a local operating system and a network interface card, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a boot request at a server computer from said client computer;

providing a registry checking program to the client computer via the network interface card in response to said boot request, wherein

said registry checking program is configured to check said registry on said client computer prior to booting said local operating system and to provide a registry response to said server computer via said network interface card;

receiving said registry response at said server from said registry checking program;

processing said registry response at said server to verify said registry on said client computer; and

providing an updated registry from said server to said client computer in response to said processing step; and

instructing said client computer to boot said local operating system after said updated registry received from said server.

9. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 has been entered by the Examiner or relied upon by Appellant in the instant appeal beyond that which is already contained in the as-filed application, as delineated in the Arguments section of this Brief.

10. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

As there are no related appeals and interferences set forth in Section 2 above, there are also no decisions rendered by a court or the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences that are related to the instant appeal.